



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

3625  
#10/Response  
L. Ellis  
1-16-04

In re patent application of:

) Attorney Docket No.: F-281

Uday W. Joshi et al.

) Group Art Unit: 3625

Serial No.: 09/898,232

) Examiner: C. Nguyen

Filed: July 2, 2001

) Date: December 30, 2003

) Confirmation No.: 1871

Title: Method and System for Customized Mail Piece Production Utilizing A  
Data Center

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION**

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**GROUP 3600**

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed December 2, 2003, Applicants hereby provisionally elect Group I, Claims 1-13, for continued examination, with traverse.

The Commissioner may require restriction if two or more independent and distinct inventions are claimed in one application (35 U.S.C. § 121). The independent claims in each group are directed to a method or system for generating a mailing including a plurality of mail pieces that includes combining orders for different mail pieces. Accordingly, the search areas for the elected subject matter will overlap the search areas for the non-elected subject matter as well and thus no undue burden would be involved in examining all pending claims together. M.P.E.P. § 803 directs as follows (emphasis added): "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the

merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." This directive should be followed by the Examiner in this case.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn, and that each of Claims 1-17 presently pending in this application be examined.

Respectfully submitted,



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